

Marriage: God's Covenant "Show and Tell"
Malachi 2:10-16

Malachi: Tracking the Themes

- Dishonoring the love of God (1:2-5)
- Dishonoring worship (1:6-2:9)
- Dishonoring Marriage (2:10-16)

Covenant-Breaking Marriages – Malachi 2:10-16

- Marrying non-covenant foreign wives (10-12)
- Divorcing covenant wives of youth (13-16)

The First Marriage – Genesis 2:18-25

- Made for one another (18-23)
- Intentional act (24a)
- Permanent bond (24b)
- United as one (24c-25)

The Ultimate Marriage – Ephesians 5:22-33

- Husband/Wife partnership structure and responsibilities (22-33)
- Covenant faithfulness until Rapture (27)
- Consistent with first marriage design (31)
- Husband/Wife microcosm of Christ/Church (32)

Our Marriages

- STOP acting in sinful ways that dishonor the covenant and put your marriage at risk
- START acting in righteous ways that honor the covenant and put your marriage on firm ground

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Questions to *Keep It Real*

Deuteronomy 7:1-11 explains why God prohibited the Israelites from marrying people from other nations. Given what you see in that passage, consider the similarities with a key New Testament passage, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18. Why does God place such a premium on Christians marrying other Christians?

Jesus quotes from the account of the first marriage (Genesis 1&2) in his defense of the permanency of marriage in Mark 10:2-9. Given the context of Jesus' statements, why do you think He drew on those Genesis passages? How do they reinforce the point he is making? In what ways do your responses change your paradigm of marriage?

If God's primary purpose for marriage could be to "show and tell" about HIS covenant faithfulness to the world around us, in what ways are you (if you are married) placing other purpose(s) for your marriage ahead of that purpose? Project how things might look and be different if you were to begin to operate with God's primary purpose for your marriage.

If we're believers in Jesus Christ, then we're all part of His bride (i.e., the Church). If that is true, then we're all in this whole marriage thing together! In what ways should you be an encourager/exhorter/etc. to the marriages around you?